

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8097

INFO US MISSIONG GENEVA 1524

US MISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2142

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM TECH IAEA JA

SUBJ: JAPAN AND NPT

REF: TOKYO 1761; IAEA VIENNA 1124

1. FONOFF DEPDIR GEN NODA CALLED EMBOFF IN FEB 19 TO INQUIRE WHETHER UNITED STATES PLANNING TO PROVIDE GOJ WITH ANY FREST GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON'S VIEWS TOWARD JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF NPT. HE SAID THAT NEXT WEEK WOULD MAKE OR BREAK NPT PROSPECTS FOR RATIFICATION THIS SESSION. PRIME MINISTER MIKI AND FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA ARE IN PROCESS OF CONSULTING LDP OPPONENTS TO TREATY AND WOULD BENEFIT FROM CURRENT HIGH LEVEL EXPRESSION OF IMPORTANCE THAT US ATTACHES TO RATIFICATION.

2. ANY PRIVATE AND INFORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR TREATY FROM AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS TO ACQUAINTANCES AND OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN KEIDANREN WOULD ALSO BE BENEFICIAL, NODA ADDED. NODA WILL BRIEF PRESTIGIOUS ATOMIC ENERGY INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL TOMORROW AFTER WHICH CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL ARISAWA WILL SEE PRIME MINISTER MIKI.

3. COMMENT: NODA'S PLEA IMPLIES NPT STILL ALIVE FOR THIS SESSION, THOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT OPPOSITION STRONG. WHILE HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTION FORM
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HIGHER LEVELS IN FOREIGN OFFICE, NODA'S DEMARCHE CONSISTENT

WITH FEBRUARY 18 MIKI STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION TO TRY
FOR DIET RATIFICATION THIS SESSION AND FLURRY OF MEETINGS
REPORTED IN PRESS DURING LAST 24 HOURS BETWEEN RANKING FONOFF
OFFICIALS AND LDP OPPONENTS TO TREATY. REFLECTING OPPOSITION
MET DURING MOST RECENT
ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, LATEST MIKI STATEMENT ON
SUBJECT AFTERNOON FEB 19 IS GLOOMY ASSESSMENT THAT
RATIFICATION WILL BE DIFFICULT THIS SESSION.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH VICE FONMIN TOGO FEB 22.
IF US WISHES INFLUENCE GOJ ON THIS ISSUE, WE
CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FREST AND FORCEFUL US
APPROACH ON NPT WILL BE TIMELY IF IT
CAN BE MADE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. SUCH AN APPROACH COULD
STILL AFFECT OUTCOME OF MIKI EFFORTS TO CONSULT TREATY INTO
BEING. IT WILL IN ANY CASE COUNTER GROWING RUMOR IN
TOKYO THAT US NO LONGER REALLY CARES WHETHER JAPAN RATIFIES
NPT OR NOT.
HODGSON

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